Remarks

Claims 9-16 are currently pending in this application.

The Office Action rejected claims 9-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential steps; and rejected claims 9-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Mistretta et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,830,143).

With regard to the Section 112 rejection of the claims, Applicants believe that this rejection is moot in light of the amendments to claims 9-16. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 112 rejection of claims 9-16. Applicants respectfully traverse the prior art rejection of the claims, for the following reasons.

Figs. 5 and 6 of Mistretta et al. (relied upon by the Office Action) disclose dividing the k-space to be sampled into two regions, a central region 235 and a peripheral region indicated at 236 and 237. Each of these regions are in turn divided into twenty-five subregions. The central region 235 contains seven subregions, while the peripheral region 236, 237 contains eighteen peripheral subregions. However, Mistretta et al. fail to disclose what direction these subregions extend.

The present invention recited, for example, in claim 9, and claims 10-16 at least by virtue of dependence, comprises a combination of elements, including detecting a central area and first areas of the spatial frequency space, the first areas being a first distance from the central area and extending in a first direction; detecting the central area and second areas of the spatial frequency space, the second areas being a second distance from the central area and extending in a second direction that is opposite to the first direction; and detecting the central area and third areas of the spatial frequency space, the third areas being a third distance from the central area and extending in the first direction. Thus the process of the present invention detects areas of the spatial frequency

space that extend in specific directions, e.g., the first and third areas of the spatial frequency space extend in one direction, while the second area extends in an opposite direction. In contrast, Mistretta et al. fail to disclose whether the subregions of the k-space (shown in Fig. 5) extend in any particular direction, and thus, fail to disclose the combination of elements recited in claims 9-16.

In light of the above, Applicants submit that claims 9-16 are patentably distinguishable from Mistretta et al. Applicants, therefore, respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 102(b) rejection of these claims.

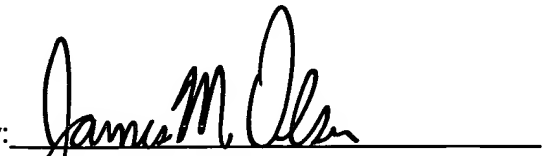
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants submit that the claimed invention, as amended, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious in view of the prior art references cited against this application. Applicants therefore request the reconsideration of the application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

If there are any other fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 03-2775. If a fee is required for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 not accounted for above, such an extension is requested and the fee should also be charged to our Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP

Dated: August 22, 2003

By: 

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